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20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein, based upon the transmitted bit rate control operation request, the selected remote end device reduces a quality of service for the multimedia stream supplied by the selected remote end device to the local end device.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising prompting a user to assign a relative quality priority for each of the received multimedia streams.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising selecting to receive the bit rate control operation request a remote end device supplying a multimedia stream with a lowest user-assigned relative quality priority.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

after the requested bit rate control operation is performed at the selected remote end device, determining whether a quality of service for one or more of the received multimedia streams is less than the user-specified quality of service; and

transmitting a bit rate control request to a remote end device supplying a multimedia stream with a next lowest user-assigned relative quality priority after determining that a quality of service for one or more of the received multimedia streams is less than the user-specified quality of service.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising dynamically reallocating resources on the local end device in favor of multimedia processing after determining that a quality of service for one or more of the received multimedia streams is less than the user-specified quality of service.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising determining whether the local end device has resources available to allocate dynamically to media manipulation.